

REMARKS

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Examiner has rejected claims 33-36, 39-40, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goepp.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 10-11, 44-46, and 58-59 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lipfert in view of Goepp. In addition, Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Cox (U.S. Patent No. 5,065,772); claims 8-9, 12-13, 15, 17, 20, 22-25, 27, 41-43, and 47-48 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lipfert in view of Goepp, along with Shields (U.S Patent No. 5,044,376); and Claims 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Petrus.

Allowable Subject Matter

Examiner has allowed claims 28-32 and 57. Examiner states that claims 19, 26, 49-50, and 60-61 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without prejudice, Applicant has amended the claims as follows to place them into allowable form:

Claim 19 is now written in independent form and has been amended to incorporate each limitation of its previous base claim 17.

Claims 20-22, 41, and 47, previously dependent on claim 17, have been amended so that they are now dependent upon amended claim 19.

Claim 26 is now written in independent form and has been amended to incorporate each limitation of its previous base claim 24 and intervening claim 23.

Claim 27, previously dependent on claim 23, has been amended so that it is now dependent upon claim 26.

Claim 49 is now written in independent form and has been amended to incorporate each limitation of its previous base claim, claim 33.

Claim 50 is now written in independent form and has been amended to incorporate each limitation of its previous base claim, claim 34.

Claim 60 is now written in independent form and has been amended to incorporate each limitation of its previous base claim 1.

New claims 62-76, each of which is ultimately dependent upon claim 60, have been added and correspond to claims 2, 5, 6, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 45, and 46, respectively, each of which was previously ultimately dependent upon claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the amended claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

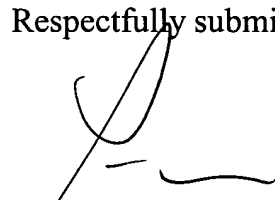
In conjunction with this reply, Applicant also files a Notice of Appeal under 37 C.F.R. § 1.191 for finally rejected claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-17, 23-25, 33-36, 39-40, and 58-59.

Applicants note that the Form PTO 1449 that was submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 5, 2001 has not been initialed and returned, and hereby request that it be initialed and returned.

If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Aug 31, 2004



Paul T. Clark
Reg. No. 30,162

Clark & Elbing LLP
101 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617-428-0200
Facsimile: 617-428-7045